

REVIEW Series – One – Ephesians 4

- Annual series talking about WHO we are as a church and what we believe and what we're about
- Consistently coming back to the Bible, God's Word, to make sure we're in alignment with Him
- Invitation to join us and become ONE with us (John 17:20-23; 1 Cor 1:10; Eph 4:3)

Philippians 1:27 *Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News.* NLT

PREVIEW – Today – One Baptism

- What is this "one baptism" we see in Ephesians and 4 and what does it mean for us today?
- Looking at Jesus's command to be baptized (Matt 28:19) and how the early church walked this out in the book of Acts and letters to churches
- Unified around what we believe as a church as we seek to live out what we see in God's Word

One Baptism

Ephesians 4:1-6 *Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. ² Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. ³ Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. ⁴ For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. ⁵ There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.* NLT

What is this "one baptism"?

1. The Meaning of the word *baptism*

Matthew 28:19 *Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,^[b] baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.* NLT

- Eph 4:6 – Greek: *baptisma* – noun – immersion, submersion - baptism
- Matt 28:19 – Greek: *baptizo* – verb – to immerse, to submerge – to baptize
- Uses in ancient Greek literature – to immerse, to overwhelm (enemies, challenges, etc) , to dip into dye
 - To become identified with by immersion (ie – pickles)

2. The Method of Baptism

Matt 3:16 *After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened ...* NLT

- Came up out of the water

Acts 8:38-39 *...they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...NLT*

- Down into the water...came up out of the water

3. The Motive of Baptism

Acts 2:36-41 ³⁶ “So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!” ³⁷ Peter’s words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸ Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away^[b]—all who have been called by the Lord our God.” ⁴⁰ Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation!” ⁴¹ Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. NLT

- o Hearing the Gospel, Believing/Conviction, repentance and baptism
- Acts 8 – Philip and Ethiopian Eunuch (vs 34-39)
- Acts 9 – Saul to Paul (vs 15-19)
- Acts 16 – Philippian Jailer (vs 29-34)
- Acts 18 – Corinthian believers (vs 4-8; 1 Cor 1:13-17)
- Acts 19 – Paul – Ephesian believers (vs 1-5)
 - o See also Acts 8:12, 13; 10:47-48

4. The Message of Baptism

Romans 6:3-4 *Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? ⁴ For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.* NLT

- This is the Good News – The Gospel – The Proclamation
- We get to, by God’s grace, have the opportunity to choose to be identified with Jesus’s
 - o Dead – to our old ways of thinking, living, identity, purpose, etc
 - o Buried – it’s over, payment received, judgment carried out – no debt owed
 - o New Life – new purpose, hope, values, attitudes

Matthew 7:24 *“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock.* NASB

Next Steps

Where are you at today?

- Have you accepted this Good News about Jesus and surrendered your life to God?
- Have you been obedient in baptism, by being immersed, as a believer?
- What areas of your life have you not surrendered/identified with Jesus’s Lordship?
- Who is someone you know that needs to hear this message?



Sample Small Group Questions
<https://bit.ly/GroupDiscussionQuestions>



The Overtime Podcast
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